

Orlando City Council Workshop – Orlando Venues Update
Council Chambers, City Hall
400 South Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL
August 15, 2016

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2 – arrived at 10:36 A.M.
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3 – arrived at 10:05 A.M.
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5 – absent
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6
Chief Assistant City Attorney Kyle Shephard
Interim City Clerk Amy T. Iennaco
Sr. Assistant City Clerk Elizabeth Davidson
Police Officers James West and Derwin Bradley, Sergeants-at-Arms

Mayor Buddy Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. and announced the topic of the workshop as Orlando Venues Update. Mayor Dyer spoke of the recent passing of former Mennello Museum Executive Director Frank Holt, who joined the City in 1990 when he was appointed as Orlando's first Public Art Manager. During that time, he amassed more than 900 pieces of art in the City's collection and helped lead the Mennello Museum of American Art from its inception as its Director. Mayor Dyer asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Frank Holt.

Mayor Dyer called on Orlando Venues Executive Director Allen Johnson who introduced Mennello Museum Executive Director Shannon Fitzgerald. Ms. Fitzgerald invited the community to attend a celebration ceremony of Frank Holt's life on Friday, August 26, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Mennello Museum and the launch of the Frank Holt Memorial Fund through Strengthen Orlando, Inc. with funds donated going to support the City's Public Art collection.

Ms. Fitzgerald spoke about the museum's collection and recent exhibitions, including an Albert Paley exhibition and talk by Mr. Paley, the current Pop Art Prints exhibition on loan from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and an upcoming exhibit of sculptures by Alice Aycock, Deborah Butterfield and Barbara Sorensen. Ms. Fitzgerald spoke about the Mennello Museum's community engagement and outreach to the City, notably Free Family Days, Orlando Kids Fringe Festival, and the annual Indie Folk Fest. The Mennello also collaborates with eleven local businesses and organizations and partners with other groups to bring art and awareness to the City. Ms. Fitzgerald concluded with information about the City's Public Art program and Public Art Advisory Board.

Allen Johnson then introduced Harry P. Leu Gardens Executive Director Robert Bowden and Assistant Division Manager Keri Byrum. Mr. Bowden noted that Leu Gardens hosted over

144,000 visitors last year due in part to popular special events such as the annual plant sale, Date Night Movies, Free Mondays and Jazz Strolls. He noted there are 3366 different plant species in the nationally and internationally recognized Leu Gardens collection, making the gardens the third largest collection of plant species in North America. Mr. Bowden noted the Gardens hosted 144 classes attended by 2,269 people last year. Also more than 10,000 guests attended 180 weddings in the gardens, making it *Orlando Magazine* readers' number one wedding location and number two non-theme park attraction in Orlando. More than 150 volunteers contributed 11,626 hours, the equivalent of 5.5 full-time paid employees.

Mr. Bowden called on Keri Byrum who noted a record number of memberships were sold, 4,708, a 42% increase from last year, due in part to exhibits funded by Friends of Leu Gardens, grants, sponsorships and paid admissions. These special exhibits began with last year's Ribbit the Exhibit sculptures, continued with David Rogers' Big Bugs, and in the future next spring's Dinosaur Invasion.

The workshop concluded at 10:40 A.M.

Amy T. Iennaco, Interim City Clerk